New passenger shipping service linking Gulf region and India

2377. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new passenger shipping service linking the Gulf region and India is shortly to be launched;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether the Non-Resident Indians in Gulf countries especially those from Kerala have accused airlines of charging more on the sector; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from Non Resident Indians in Gulf countries including those from Kerala. The international airfares are fixed by International Air Transport Association in Tariff Coordination Conference attended by all Airlines, unanimously. However, different Airlines may file fares less than IATA approved fares with DGCA. These fares are generally for a limited fixed period during lean season. Indian Airlines and Air India have also made applications for this purpose with DGCA.

Handing over the surplus land of KPT to Gujarat State

2378. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of actual proposal for handing over the surplus land of Kandla Port Trust to the Gujarat State;

(b) how much land is to be handed over to the State Government;

(c) the details of action taken by Government for handing over the possession of surplus land of the Kandla Port Trust to the State; and

(d) by when the possession of land in question would be handed over to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no proposal for handing over the surplus land of Kandla Port Trust to the Gujarat State.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Sale of infants from orphanages in Andhra Pradesh

2379. DR. KARAN SINGH:

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent reported racket flourishing in Andhra Pradesh involving sale of infants from orphanages by way of adoption; and

(b) if so, the number and the details of the cases reported since March this year and the steps taken to prevent such rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has not received any report or details of Specific cases but an inquiry is being conducted into the allegations by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. In the meantime all State Governments have been asked to take necessary steps to prevent similar incidents in future which *inter alia*, include:

(i) Licensing of all Residential Homes and setting up of state adoption units

(ii) Joint inspections should take place of orphanages and agencies

(iii) Enforcement of Orphanages and other Charitable Homes Act, 1960

(iv) Monitoring of adoption activities quoting recent happenings in Andhra Pradesh.

Further directives have also been issued to the concerned agencies and organizations to streamline their activities and adhere to the government guidelines in this respect.